

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been carefully reviewed in view of the Office Action dated September 24, 2004. In the Office Action claims 4-8 and 10-12 were objected under 37 CFR 1.75(c) due to claim dependency issues. Claims 1-3 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Leasure et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,782,863).

In response, claims 3-8, 10 and 11 have been amended. Claims 9 and 12 have been cancelled and new claims 13-19 have been added. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

By way of background, the work in principle of the starting device must be considered. Because of the working principle of the spiral spring which extends around the bearing axis for a torsion beyond 270-180 degrees, a winding of this spiral spring often presses into the gap or the intermediate space between the rope drum and the ratchet catch element. As a result, at least one part of the winding of the spiral spring enters the gap between the rope drum and the catch element and is naturally elongated excessively and subject to undesirable permanent deformation.

The present invention, as set forth in the independent claims, provides a bushing or sleeve which fills the gap between the pulley or rope drum (4) and the coupling element (6). This bushing or sleeve (8) advantageously prevents the elastic coupling element from entering into the intermediate space and, therefore, prevents damage to the spiral spring noted above.

The Office Action indicates that the Leasure et al. reference anticipates the claims of the present invention. In this regard, the Office Action states that the "claims embrace at least the recoil starter embodiment

shown in Fig. 10, which includes a rope pulley 86, and engaging element 90 with a sleeve portion and a spring coupling element 88". However, the Leasure et al. reference, contrary to the statement set forth in the Office Action, does not show, teach or suggest the provision of a bushing or sleeve as set forth in the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a particular element is the equivalent of a bushing or sleeve, applicants request that the element be specifically illustrated and defined so that it can be more specifically addressed.

With regard to the pending claims, it will be noted that claims 1 and 2 are unchanged. The multiple dependencies of claims 3-8, 10 and 11 have been addressed and eliminated through amendment. Claims 9 and 12 have been cancelled and new claims 13-19 submitted.

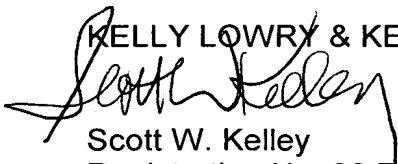
ONE MONTH TIME EXTENSION REQUEST

Submitted concurrently herewith is a partition for a one-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that each of the pending claims 1-8, 10, 11 and 13-19 is in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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